

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ERDA-07 AF-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPT. 3 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SOUTHERLAND, IN SEPT. 2 DISPATCH, REPORTED THAT LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES MAKES CLEAR THAT IN NUCLEAR FIELD BOTH SOVIETS AND AMERICANS ARE MOVING STEADILY CLOSER TO REACHING DANGEROUS "FIRST STRIKE" CAPABILITY. INSTITUTE, IN REPORT, SAYS IN EARLY 1980S, U.S. CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE CAPABILITY OF DELIVERING CLOSE TO 14,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, AS COMPARED WITH CURRENT TOTAL OF 11,000. SOVIETS WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER MORE THAN 7,500, AS COMPARED WITH ABOUT 3,800 NOW. WHILE SOVIETS EXPECTED TO LAG IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL WARHEADS, INSTITUTE NOTES, SOVIET WARHEADS WILL CON-
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TINUE TO HAVE "SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER YIELDS."

2. BERNARD NOSSITER OF WASHINGTON POST, IN DISPATCH FROM LONDON ON WHAT HE CALLED "GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR NEW PACT TO CURB ARMS RACE," SAID AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES WARNS THAT FAST-CHANGING WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY HAS

OVERTAKEN EXISTING AGREEMENTS THAT MERELY LIMIT NUMBERS OF WEAPONS. NOSSITER SAID INSTITUTE DIRECTOR CHRISTOPH

BERTRAM SAYS WHAT IS NEEDED IS SOVIET-AMERICAN DEAL TO MEET PROBLEM OF QUALITY BY CURBING MILITARY MISSIONS RATHER THAN NUMBER OF NUCLEAR ARMS. POST CORRESPONDENT SAID BERTRAM AND STAFF PREDICT THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW WOULD AGREE ONLY TO EXTEND SALT ONE. INSTITUTE REPORT SAYS SOVIET MISSILES ARE NOW SO ACCURATE THEY COULD DESTROY AMERICAN MISSILES IN THEIR SILOS. U.S., IN TURN, HAS IMPROVED ACCURACY OF ITS MISSILES TO EVEN GREATER DEGREE, INSTITUTE SAYS, AND DEVELOPED NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS CRUISE MISSILE THAT FURTHER COMPLICATE AGREEMENT. BERTRAM SAYS U.S. STILL HAS NOT FIXED ITS POLICY TO COPE WITH FACT THAT IMPROVED SOVIET WEAPONS MIGHT TEMPT MOSCOW TO STRIKE FIRST AND WIPE OUT AMERICAN MISSILES.

3. WASHINGTON STAR STAFF WRITER HENRY BRADSHER, COMMENTING ON POSTPONEMENT IN VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS, SAID "THERE WAS STRONG UNDERTONE IN STATE DEPARTMENT OF WANTING TO PROTECT VANCE FROM ANOTHER TRIP THAT WOULD FAIL TO PRODUCE DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS. LACK OF POSITIVE RESULTS FROM BOTH HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP MONTH AGO AND HIS RECENT CHINA TRIP HAVE LEFT OFFICIALS SENSITIVE ABOUT APPEARANCE OF FRUITLESS FOREIGN TRAVELS." BRADSHER SAID FORM OF ANY EXTENSION FOR SALT ONE TREATY RAISES UNCLASSIFIED

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MAJOR PROBLEMS. "IN ORDER TO HAVE SOMETHING WITH BINDING VALIDITY, SOME FORMALITY WOULD BE REQUIRED RATHER THAN JUST HAVING UNSPOKEN UNDERSTANDING THAT NEITHER SUPERPOWER WOULD EXCEED BALLISTIC MISSILE LIMITS OF OLD TREATY. BUT MAKING FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. GETTING IT COULD TURN OUT TO BE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING." HE SAID ADMINISTRATION IS STILL STUDYING HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEM, AND LITTLE CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE SO FAR. "PRESIDENT CARTER SAID LAST MONTH THAT

CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF FORMAL EXTENSION IS NOT REQUIRED," BRADSHER RECALLED. "SOME EXPERTS THINK HE SIMPLY MISSPOKE BECAUSE HE WAS UNINFORMED." BRADSHER SAID ISSUE WHICH HAS NOT YET ARISEN PUBLICLY IS STATUS OF 1972 ABM TREATY. HE POINTED OUT ABM TREATY IS OF UNLIMITED DURATION, UNLIKE SALT ONE WHICH WAS DESIGNATED INTERIM AGREEMENT VALID FOR FIVE YEARS PENDING NEGOTIATION OF MORE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROLS. U.S. NEGOTIATOR OF THOSE 1972 TREATIES, GERARD SMITH, MADE UNILATERAL STATEMENT AT TIME OF SIGNING OF TWO TREATIES LINKING ABM TREATY'S CONTINUED

VALIDITY TO COMPLETING SALT TWO, BRADSHER RECALLED. HE QUOTED SMITH AS SAYING THEN: "IF AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR MORE COMPLETE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS

LIMITATIONS WERE NOT ACHIEVED WITHIN FIVE YEARS, U.S. SUPREME INTERESTS COULD BE JEOPARDIZED. SHOULD THAT OCCUR, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE BASIS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM ABM TREATY." BRADSHER SAID "SO FAR THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY INCLINATION WITHIN ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER AMERICAN SUPREME INTERESTS SO JEOPARDIZED BY SALT TWO DEADLOCK AS TO INVOLVE ABM TREATY. BUT THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN IN SOME U.S. MILITARY CIRCLES ABOUT SOVIET RESEARCH ON RADICAL NEW TYPES OF ABM WEAPONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO KREMLIN DENUNCIATION OF TREATY."
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4. WILLIAM CHAPMAN OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FROM TOKYO THAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS REGARD U.S.-JAPAN AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION OF CONTROVERSIAL NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT AS VICTORY FOR FUKUDA GOVERNMENT. FUKUDA'S GOVERNMENT, CHAPMAN SAID, HAD STAKED CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE IN GETTING EXPERIMENTAL PLANT INTO OPERATION THIS YEAR DESPITE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONTENTION THAT IT WOULD ENDANGER U.S. EFFORTS TO HALT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. CHAPMAN SAID WHILE CHIEF U.S.

NEGOTIATOR, GERARD SMITH, SAID BOTH SIDES HAD GAINED POINTS IN FOUR DAYS OF TALKS, "FEW DETAILS OF AGREEMENT THAT TRICKLED OUT INDICATED THAT JAPANESE HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY WANTED."

5. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CONTROVERSIAL STUDY THAT PAINTS BLEAK PORTRAIT OF U.S. DEFENSES HAS EMERGED AS FOCUS OF EMOTIONAL DEBATE INVOLVING CONGRESS AND PENTAGON. WEINRAUB SAID STUDY BY JOHN M. COLLINS, SENIOR SPECIALIST IN NATIONAL DEFENSE WITH CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, SAYS THAT QUANTITATIVE CHANGES IN U.S. AND SOVIET ARMED FORCES FAVOR SOVIET UNION, WITH SCATTERED EXCEPTIONS. WEINRAUB SAID ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON REPORT AS RESULT OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS IN CONGRESS THAT DOCUMENT HAD BEEN "SUPPRESSED" BECAUSE IT CONFLICTS WITH GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ADMINISTRATION VIEW OF U.S.-SOVIET MILITARY BALANCE STUDY, TITLED "AMERICAN AND SOVIET ARMED SERVICES, STRENGTHS COMPARED, 1970-76," WAS PLACED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD LAST MONTH BY SENATOR JESSE A. HELMS. WEINRAUB SAID COLLINS, WHOSE REPORT WAS PRIVATELY WELCOMED BY MANY PENTAGON OFFICIALS, URGED OVER-ALL
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STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH SOVIET UNION AND WARNED AGAINST
STOP-GAP MEASURES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: GENEVA MBFR VIENNA
Type: TE
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